The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Let us consider the reason of the case. For nothing is law that is not reason.—Sir John Powell.

WHOLE NO. 848. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1927. VOL. 17, NO. 17.

PUBLICITY IS LABOR'S MIGHTY WEAPON

The history of trade unionism includes many theories that organized workers forced employers to abandon.

No longer is heard the cry: "I refuse to be dictated to; I run my own business; if you don't like working conditions, git out!

Other discarded theories are:

Compulsory arbitration.

Wages by law.

Outlawing the right to cease work.

Low wages cheapen production.

Incorporation of trade unions.

Wages are based on the law of supply and demand.

The short work day injures workers' morals.

These theories were all urged with the fervor that is now expended on the company "union" and other paternalisms.

They were defended by men who were called learned. Today they have no open champions. Their passing is a tribute to the soundness of organized labor's judgment.

Each one of these theories were based on control of the workers by the State of by employers.

These direct attacks have been replaced by subtle opposition.

Mental dope has replaced the bludgeon.

Anti-union strategy is flank attack rather than frontal movements, as in the days when the State was urged to stop strikes and set wages by law.

Opponents now profess acceptance of collective bargaining but insist it be applied through their company "union." They have changed tactics, but not principle.

Opponents yet refuse to grant employes freedom to control their own lives. This right will be acknowledged when workers discredit paternal schemes and the company "union."

This is not only possible but it is necessary.

The workers have exposed other theories that were just as strongly entrenched.

BALDWIN QUITS FIGHT TO STRENGHTEN LORDS

London, England, July 9.—Premier Baldwin has discovered it is more easy to pass an anti-trade union bill than to increase the power of the House of Lords, Britain's upper legislative chamber.

Objections to the premier's plan has forced him to postpone the proposal. Younger members of his party were not in sympathy with him, and this division might force a general election. As matters now stand he can hold office until 1929.

Older Conservatives are dissatisfied with the Parliament Act of 1911, which made the House of Commons final control over appropriations. Any bill passed by three successive sessions of the House and rejected each time by the Lords becomes a law two years after its introduction.

The common people's power over the purse is distasteful to died-in-the-wool Conservatives. Rather than risk a reopening of the historic fight between the Commons and privilege, Premier Baldwin hoisted the white flag.

Through control of the purse, the Commons have forced many concessions from English kings.

COMMUNISM IN U. S. JEERED BY KERENSKY

New York, July 9.—Before leaving this country after a four-months' visit, Alexander Kerensky, former premier of Russia, ridiculed Communist propaganda in the United States. Mr. Kerensky said that the principal "red" centers are Chicago and this city. Here the Communists are centralizing their efforts against organized fur workers and cloak makers.

"Communism will come in Mars sooner than in the United States," said the former premier. "The Bolshevik propaganda is pure nightmare. I have been in many parts of the country and talked with many people of all classes, particularly in the labor movement, and I say Bolshevists are wasting their money here.

"In the first two or three years of the Russian revolution the Soviet leaders were under the illusion that the world revolution was actually on its way, but they realize their fairy tale has collapsed. They know the game is up abroad and their continued foreign propaganda is not for the purpose of influencing foreign events. It is for home consumption, to keep up the illusion among the demoralized masses that world revolution is coming."

Mr. Kerensky said Americans, "except a few insignificant elements sympathetic with the Bolsheviki or anarchists," favor a free and democratic Russia and appreciate the struggles of the Russian people to free themselves from "the fetters of Bolshevist despotism."

FULLER GIVES STAY TO SACCO, VANZETTI

Boston, July 9.—Governor Fuller has postponed the executions of Sacco and Vanzetti for one month from the week beginning July 10 to August 10. A respite of equal duration was granted Celestino Madeiros, under sentence of death for killing a bank cashier. He has stated that Sacco and Vanzetti are not guilty of killing the South Braintree paymaster but that the crime was commited by a gang of which he was a member. Madeiros was reprieved that his claim may be investigated.

Despite intense interest in Sacco and Vanzetti's case, and the plea for a new trial by citizens in all walks of life, there is a strong undercurrent in this State against the two men. Opponents insist they are "radicals" and draft dodgers.

DEFEAT FIREMEN'S PENSION

Springfield, Ill., July 9.—The State Senate has rejected the firemen's pension bill. The objectors claim it was not sound from an actuarial standpoint.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Syracuse, N. Y., July 9.—The sixty-fourth annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor will convene here on Tuesday, August 23.

IRON WORKERS GAIN

Peoria, Ill., July 9.—An arbitration board awarded iron workers $1.25 an hour. The old rate was $1.12½.

THE OLD ORDER CHANGES

Oklahoma oil operators, headed by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, agreed to limit production. They appointed an oil czar to enforce the pact.

The pledge is not generally observed. Some of the signers are doing a strikebreaking stunt and the oil czar has asked the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to aid him in compelling the operators to live up to their agreement.

Suppose employes of the anti-union Baldwin Locomotive Works organized and made this declaration:

"Our hours are too long. We produce too much and the plant is on a 10 per cent capacity. Let us reduce hours."

Or suppose employes of the steel trust, now on a 70 per cent production basis, took the same position?

Would the public be as uninformed on these movements as in the case of oil operators, who go so far as to ask the State to aid them?

The Oklahoma situation is significant and sensational. It is the latest phase of a silent upheaval in industry.

SOUTHERN BOURBONS ANGRY AT CHURCHMEN

New York, July 9.—The Information Service, issued by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ, reprints several attacks on a plea signed by 41 leading Southern ministers and church officials for social and economic improvement in Southern industries. Particular attention was given to mill villages, long hours, low wages and lack of labor representation.

Southern textile manufacturers and allied interests resent the statement. The Southern Textile Bulletin of Charlotte, N. C., that led the fight against the Tenden child labor amendment, refers to the church men's plea as "extremely silly in some respects" and "false and misleading" in others.

The Bulletin says the church men advocated "the formation of labor unions in Southern cotton mills," whereas the statement reads: "We do not undertake . . . to suggest the forms which employers' representation should take, whether arrangements negotiated with regular unions or forms of work councils."

The indirect reference to trade unions enrages the Bulletin editor, who declares that the statement "was inspired and probably drawn by professional agitators who wished to make an attack upon the South."

The Manufacturers' Record of Baltimore insists that the statement emanated from sources "more or less identified with many socialistic, communistic and bolshevistic teachings in this country."

The Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer, edited by former Secretary of the Navy Daniels, refuses to accept this reactionary policy. "This moderate statement addressed to Southern industry," he says, "breathes the spirit which should animate all Southern industry."

PICTURES OF LABOR ASKED FOR BY GREEN

Washington, July 9. — President Green has requested officers of A. F. of L. national and international affiliates to forward him pictures illustrating work done by members of these organizations. The pictures will be used in a picture machine.

"We want to complete a reel for use at our coming convention as well as during the year as an educational feature," said President Green. "I would appreciate it very much, therefore, if you would arrange to send me pictures interpreting or illustrating the work done by your members, as well as material on the work of your union that will lend itself to picture use. This will be an excellent method of showing the achievements of the labor movement and also for reaching wide groups of people. If you could arrange to get these pictures to me at an early date, it would be very helpful."

"LITTLE SCHEMES" TO REDUCE WAGES

Indianapolis, July 9. — "Several funny little movements have been started in recent months for the formation of final miners' organizations," says the United Mine Workers' Journal.

"There is one having its center in Iowa. Another broke out a short time ago in Ohio. These schemes are backed and financed with money that comes from coal operators which would like to destroy the United Mine Workers of America. Certain coal companies are assuming a friendly attitude toward these dizzy schemes, because in each instance the promoters declare in favor of 'wage reductions.'"

TAXI DRIVERS WIN

Vancouver, Canada, July 9.—Taxi drivers in this city won a standard wage rate after a short strike. Formerly they depended upon commissions and tips, which often did not total $1 a day.

RAIL MERGERS FAIL; U. S. BOARD CAUTIOUS

New York, July 9.—Financial interests are pessimistic over railroad consolidations.

Under the Railway Transportation Act these mergers are permissible with the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission, but that body has rejected every plan.

These decisions place "practically nsurmountable obstacles in the way of actual consolidation," says "The Review of the Week," issued by the financial house of Spencer Trask & Co.

"Competition, local conditions, diffused ownership and many other of the more practical considerations make it quite impossible to bring about the ideal merger, but even the best practical solutions seem to fall short of acceptance," it is stated.

The larger railroads are objecting to that portion of the Railway Transportation Act which provides that earnings in excess of 6 per cent shall be set aside. One-half of this fund shall be placed in the reserve fund of each railroad and one-half turned over to the government to assist roads that are financially weak.

This is known as the recapture clause. It was not objected to when the railway act was passed, but later was attacked without success in the United States Supreme Court.

In upholding the recapture clause, the Supreme Court said: "By investment in a business dedicated to the public service the owner must recognize that, as compared with investment in private business, he can not expect either high or speculative dividends, but that his obligation limits him to only fair or reasonable profit."

This decision was the basis for a rule by the Interstate Commerce Commission in the case of an obscure railroad (St. Louis & Kansas City Belt way Company) that the recapture clause can not be defeated by excessive expenses.

BRICKLAYERS GAIN

Portland, Ore., July 9.—The Bricklayers' Union won a wage increase through arbitration. Rates will be advanced $1 a week on September 1. Until then wages are increased from $11 to $11.50.

CHAIN STORES FOR CLOTHING IN FOUR YEARS IS PREDICTED

New York, July 9.—Nation-wide chains of retail and clothing and department stores will control the woolen industry in the near future, was predicted by William J. Baxter, director of the Wool and Clothing Research Bureau of America, in a statement just made public.

"Within four years," Mr. Baxter said, "the entire business of supplying clothing to the nation will be controlled either by single concerns, developing wool from its raw stage to the finished product—clothing—and selling it direct to the consumer, or by two separate organisations dividing the work.

"In the near future the whole industry will be controlled by nation-wide chains of retail clothing and department stores. Therefore, we suggest that mills adjust their business and invest their capital along lines that are in harmony with what's ahead."

SUBMARINE IS NOT OUTLAWED; FEAR AND RIVALRY TRIUMPH

Washington, July 9.—The naval conference at Geneva has failed to agree on control of the submarine.

Observers at the conference are not surprised at this failure, although the United States representatives said this country would be willing to consider abolition of the new war weapon if such action were universal. Clashing interests of other nations made for often a diplomatic gesture.

These clashing interests involve England, France and Italy. Each one would control the Mediterranean that is favorable to submarine operations because of the comparatively short distance from shore.

The Mediterranean divides Africa and Europe. On one side are France and Italy and on the other are the great colonies of these nations. Around Africa revolves the French colonial system, while Italy is depending upon Africa for food and an outlet for her surplus population.

The Mediterranean is vital to England. Through this water her ships pass to India and the Far East. This trade route has been called "the jugular vein of the British Empire."

England is willing to outlaw the sub and depend upon battleships and cruisers to control this waterway, while France and Italy rely on the submarine.

Each nation takes their respective positions because they believe such action will protect their national life. In addition to this fear of rivals are hopes of future aggrandizement.

"Can't-Strike" Law Has Failed; Probers Score Colorado Scheme

Denver, July 9.—The anti-strike law of this State is a failure.

This is the gist of a report by Colston E. Warne, professor of economics, University of Pittsburgh, who investigated the Colorado Industrial Commission. He was assisted by Merrill E. Gaddis, University of Chicago. Their findings will be printed in the Journal of Political Economy, published by University of Chicago.

The commission law is supposed to be the last word in solving the capitalist-labor problem. It is based on the theory that if workers are denied the right to strike until a State commission investigates the question and publishes its findings, public opinion will force a just settlement. A strike is illegal until the commission acts.

Prof. Warne says the commission has no trustworthy cost-of-living statistics; that it can not analyze the ability of a corporation to pay a living wage, and that it has failed in large disputes either through tardy action or the lack of a consistent policy.

"Interstate disputes have not been well handled, a difficulty which seems inherent in any plan for State regulation of industrial controversies," it is stated.

"The stragetic power of labor has been materially reduced by the law. Adequate steps have not been taken to prevent companies from victimizing men who have been active in pressing demands for wage increases. It is easy for a company to find such men to be 'inefficient.'"

Advocates of this compulsory investigation and anti-strike proposal insist that it aids unorganized workers, but this Prof. Warne dissents.

"It is a moot question whether unorganized workers are benefited by the enactment," he says. "Such workers are seldom adequately and coherently represented. Furthermore, they find organization difficult, if not impossible to attain, because of the ineffectiveness of the suspended strike. Moreover, they are not sure that they are hesitant to ask the commission to intervene in the adjustment of wages."

FREEDOM IN INDUSTRY URGED BY CHURCHMEN

San Francisco, July 9.—At a conference in this city, Episcopal clergymen delivered straight-from-the-shoulder blows at social injustice and in support of wage earners.

In urging a reconstruction of industry, Rev. J. Howard Mellish said:

"Business, as now organized on a competitive basis, is industrial warfare. In war we set aside democratic methods and accept dictatorship. So in business, we practice the theory of one-man rule. Napoleons of finance and czars of business today hold as great power as their prototypes did in politics and in war."

The churchman urged an increase in the "practical freedom" of the mass of mankind by increasing their power to influence material conditions on which their livelihood and well being depend.

"The time is approaching when big business will be impossible without real democracy," he said.

Bishop William F. Faber of Montana said the church must range itself on the side of social justice.

"We must clear our minds of cant," he said. "The church is beginning to stand for what she was created to stand for."

Rev. Oscar Green of Palo Alto defended the workers' right to bargain collectively. "The right to strike is a right already won," he said.

AIR MAIL PASSES TO PRIVATE HANDS

Washington, July 9.—The Post Office Department has transferred the air mail service between Chicago and San Francisco to the Boeing Airplane Company, of Seattle, a private contractor. The eastern section of the same service between Chicago and New York will be relinquished by the government on July 31 to the National Air Transport, Inc., another private concern.

The government built up this transcontinental service and spent large sums of money in the experimental stage. When it is established it is handed to "private initiative."

CHARLES ATHERTON DEAD

Cincinnati, July 9.—Charles R. Atherton, secretary-treasurer of the Typographical International Union, died in a local hospital after three weeks' illness. The funeral at Dayton was attended by many trade unionists. President Green of the A. F. of L. was represented by A. F. of L. Vice President James Wilson.

Secretary Atherton was one of the best-known trade unionists throughout the United States and Canada.

ENGINEERS ASSESS FOR BUSINESS PLANS

Cleveland, July 9.—A lessening of enthusiasm for business ventures marks the triennial convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

The elaborate structure of banks, trust companies, coal mining and Florida land has compelled the convention to levy an assessment of $5 a month for 24 months on the members. The plan, known as "frozen" that is, they are good, but cannot be moved at present.

The convention adopted a drastic reorganization plan. The office of president has been abolished, and the new grand chief engineer, Al Johnston, will be in complete charge of the brotherhood, as was the rule before the change under the late Warren S. Stone.

Charges have been preferred against President Prenter and other officials who are accused of handling the brotherhood's affairs carelessly. Assistant Grand Chief Bissett was authorized to investigate alleged economies in the management of the brotherhood's Florida land venture.

The brotherhood's insurance features are in no way involved. The delegates are agreed that their financial affairs will be adjusted and that the heavy assessment will not continue for two years.

BUSY ANTI-UNIONISTS CHASE NEW RAINBOW

San Francisco, July 9.—With their "open" shop and "American plan" discredited, anti-unionists have launched a new move to wheedle the coin from business men.

The latest scheme is the "Craft Club." It is a "union" of strikebreakers and non-unionists. At the club opening the guest of honor was Albert E. Boynton, manager of the Industrial Association, and a member of the anti-union movement in this city and recently attempted to smash the Carpenters' Union.

Mr. Boynton arranged the nation-wide "American Plan Open Shop Conference" in this city. Despite lurid publicity less than 50 delegates attended the secret meetings.

The conference was under the direction of professional money getters. The keynote of the deliberations was sounded by the chairman, who stated that "we are in favor of the 'American plan' or 'open' shop and against unionism."

FILM WAGE CUT DELAY URGED BY PRODUCERS

Los Angeles, Cal., July 9.—The Board of Directors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recommends that the 10 per cent salary cut in the motion picture industry be delayed until August.

The Academy is a company "union," maintained by producers. They have discovered that their high-priced stars may fight the cut.

NEGROES ARE DUPED

Pittsburgh, July 9.—Thousands of negroes imported by the Pittsburgh Coal Company from the South tell pitiful tales of how they have been deceived by the corporation's agents.

The corporation. It is estimated that 50,000 negroes have been lured to this district during the last two years.

No more than 4,000 of these negroes are working.

TAILORS BACK IN FOLD

Winnipeg, Canada, July 9.—Journeymen tailors have reorganized and are again affiliated with the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America.

The local organization joined the One Big Union in 1919, with the usual result. For several years what was formerly a union of 200 members has ceased to function.

PAINTERS GET CONTRACT

Portland, Ore., July 9.—Painters' Union No. 10 has secured a three-year contract with employers. The five-day week will continue and the wage question can be reopened each October.

EXPERT FAVORS SMALLER PROFITS; WAGE CUTS WOULD HARM BUSINESS

New York, July 9.—A wage reduction would intensify any business decline that may temporarily appear, is the frank statement in the Magazine of Wall Street by "one of the greatest financial experts in the country."

"For reasons of policy, it has been deemed best not to disclose his identity" says this recognized financial publication.

The expert says:

"Since the high level of wages in itself has contributed to our prosperity, there would be danger in tinkering with existing schedules. Unless business should run into a broad decline, it seems better to let wage rates stand where they are and let the corporations take up the difference. That is, from the broader standpoint it would probably be better that profits be smaller for corporations than to subject labor to smaller wages.

"In the first place, our accumulated wealth is so great that we can stand a short period of less profitable business. In the second place, to arbitrarily cut wages when conditions as at present are uncertain would hasten a protracted decline in profits, something that the wage cut would be designed to prevent. Hence, it is important to keep wages where they are and trust to an early improvement in the outlook.

"While temporarily profits may not be so great and while they may decline somewhat further, this is the inevitable reaction from a period of sustained high profits. Every business man expects minor fluctuations in his profits and few important people are really worried as to the outlook."

MILLIONS OF PROFITS GIVEN STOCKHOLDERS

New York, July 9.—Dividend and interest disbursements during July established a new record for all time. Investors received a sum in excess of $550,000,000, compared with half a billion a year ago.

An Internal Revenue Bureau report shows that there were 207 persons in the millionaire class in 1925, as against 75 in 1924. Gross income of corporations in 1925 totaled more than $113,000,000,000.

PEOPLE'S POWER PLANT HAS SILVER JUBILEE

Kitchener, Ontario, July 9.—Hydro, Ontario's world-famous public-operated power system, celebrated its silver jubilee here. Speakers emphasized that Hydro is so firmly entrenched in public favor that no one dreams of going back to private ownership.

At present Hydro handles about 1,800,000 horse power. It sells current to municipalities, of which 79 have paid the cost of their plants and their electric systems are free of debt. Rural power districts are operated by the commission. Hydro gives the people of southern Ontario cheaper light and power than any considerable-sized community in the world. Domestic rates average less than one-third of charges in the United States.

"The commission's last annual report shows that the average charge for domestic use in the United States is 7.4 cents per kilowatt hour and less than 2 cents in Ontario for the same service. Rates for commercial light and industrial power maintain the same proportion.

The system began 25 years ago when a few citizens in southwestern Ontario urged development of Niagara Falls to produce electric current. The plan gained in favor because Ontario had to import coal from the United States to produce electric power.

Three years later the government of the Province of Ontario authorized the appointment of a commission to investigate the question. In 1906 the government created the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario.

WORKERS ARE HEALTHY; ALL RECORDS BROKEN

New York, July 9.—America's working men are healthier this year than ever before, according to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

The month of May, with a death rate of 8.7 per thousand among the company's 18,000,000 industrial policyholders, set a low record for the Metropolitan; and the records for the four preceding months show health conditions among the industrial populations of the United States and Canada to have been better than during the corresponding period of any preceding year.

Tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza have been registering declines since January 1. There were fewer deaths in May than in May last year, and less than half as many cases of measles and whooping cough. Diphtheria mortality is running higher, and there is a slight increase in heart disease and cancer deaths.

20,000 MINERS OUT

Clearfield, Pa., July 9.—About 20,000 union coal miners in this district suspended work on the expiration of a temporary agreement with central Pennsylvania coal operators.

The owners refused to pay the prevailing scale pending a new agreement.

WIRE MEN LOCKED OUT

Everett, Wash., July 9.—Electrical Workers' Union No. 191 called a strike against the local telephone company, following the discharge of several employes. The union has been organizing this plant. The company claims the men were discharged to reduce the force, but the unionists ask why were their places filled by non-unionists.

WANT SHORT WORK WEEK

New York, July 9.—Workers in the infant coat shops include a 42-hour week in a contract that will be submitted to employers. These workers are affiliated to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

POLITICAL EUROPE EVADES DEMOCRACY

Iowa City, Iowa, July 9.—Europe is not accepting the United States form of political guidance, said William B. Munro, professor of American history and government at Harvard University, in an address at an educational conference here.

Europe, he said, is swinging from autocracy. In the 10 years since the World War a dozen European countries have adopted new constitutions, Professor Munro pointed out, but not one has copied the Constitution of the United States nor borrowed from this nation's political institutions.

"Our export trade in American political ideals," he said, "has gone to pieces. Ten years ago we set out to make the world safe for democracy by turning a great war into a still greater one. Many leaders thought that Europe, after the war, would become a great democracy on the American pattern.

"Europe has done nothing of the kind. There has been an extraordinary flash-back to Mussolini, Hindenburg, Pilsudski, Poincare, Baldwin. They mean that Europe is undergoing a great swing away from democracy.

"Others do not see our government as we see it. Europeans attribute the power and prosperity of the United States to our natural resources and immigration. Our form of government, they believe, has nothing to do with it. Europe copies our business methods, our educational systems, our outdoor athletics, our movies, even our clubs—but not our politics."

CHEAP LABOR PLAN WRECKS BUSINESS

Charleston, W. Va., July 9.—Business men are in a gloom more dense than surrounds Commander Byrd on his flight to France.

The airman had an objective, but the business men have none. They supported the coal owners' anti-union plan and now dislike to acknowledge their mistake.

"These coal owners," says the West Virginia Federationist, "made extravagant promises to business interests through the press and civic and commercial organizations. They deluded the public into the belief that they were the Moses that would make the Kanawha Valley hum with industry and the hills clink with silver."

Employers in other industries were swept into the anti-union column, and now, after three years, business is wrecked "and many of the mine owners have been forced into bankruptcy, dragging other business enterprises with them."

Last year more coal was taken out of the Kanawha Valley than in any other year, but business is prostrate and the mine owners shriek poverty.

"This deplorable condition cannot be placed at the Miners' Union nor freight rates," says the West Virginia Federationist. "It was the coal owners' lack of foresight and their dream of controlling the world's coal markets by reducing miners to peonage."

BOOKBINDERS UNITE

Winnipeg, Canada, July 9.—Poor work conditions forced bookbinders to reorganize the bindery in this city. They permitted their union to fail to pieces and wages dropped below the average Canadian city.

The bookbinders will now attempt to make losses they suffered through indifference.

IS THIS PROSPERITY!

Philadelphia, July 9.—The Baldwin Locomotive Works has been placed on a 10 per cent production capacity. Steel making, iron trade papers announce, has dropped from 74 to 70 per cent capacity.

BARBERS WIN PAY RAISE

Newark, N. J., July 9.—After a week's strike, 700 barbers won their demand for a weekly wage of $35 and a commission on $50 or over on each week's business.